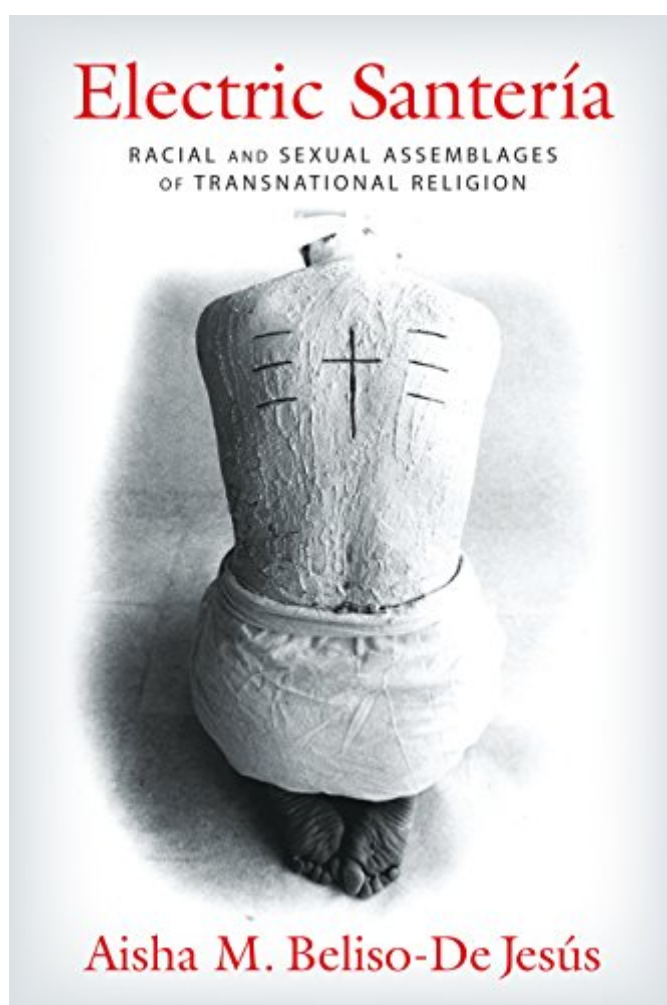


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Electric Santería: Racial And Sexual Assemblages Of Transnational Religion (Gender, Theory, And Religion)



Synopsis

Santería is an African-inspired, Cuban diaspora religion long stigmatized as witchcraft and often dismissed as superstition, yet its spirit- and possession-based practices are rapidly winning adherents across the world. Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús introduces the term 'copresence' to capture the current transnational experience of Santería, in which racialized and gendered spirits, deities, priests, and religious travelers remake local, national, and political boundaries and reconfigure notions of technology and transnationalism. Drawing on eight years of ethnographic research in Havana and Matanzas, Cuba, and in New York City, Miami, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay area, Beliso-De Jesús traces the phenomenon of copresence in the lives of Santería practitioners, mapping its emergence in transnational places and historical moments and its ritual negotiation of race, imperialism, gender, sexuality, and religious travel. Santería's spirits, deities, and practitioners allow digital technologies to be used in new ways, inciting unique encounters through video and other media. Doing away with traditional perceptions of Santería as a static, localized practice or as part of a mythologized 'past,' this book emphasizes the religion's dynamic circulations and calls for nontranscendental understandings of religious transnationalisms.

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Customer Reviews

Afro-diasporic religion is the sort of topic that many people think they know a lot about but few have anything profound or original to say. Aisha manages to use Santeria as a lens through which to understand the role of ritual in constituting community and the intricate strategies through which people craft novel ideas of personhood, while carefully delineating broader social and historical dynamics. She achieves all this while developing an original theoretical stance on questions of subjectivity and historicity. Not simply an excellent study of Santeria, this book represents the best in our shared tradition of ethnographic inquiry.

Beautiful, unique style of anthropological study. Smart, personable, engaging read. Beliso's writing is wonderful and the material she covers is fascinating.

Amazing book! What a great read!

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